

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE
ALFRED D. COOPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Honorable Alfred D. Cooper for his commitment to pursuing justice.

The Honorable Alfred D. Cooper is a long-standing New York public servant. After receiving his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Brooklyn College, Judge Cooper served in the United States Army. He later received a Masters Degree from the Brooklyn College Graduate School and a law degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Judge Cooper has served in the Unified Court System of New York for more than twenty-five years. He started as a Uniformed Court Officer and rose through the ranks to Senior Court Attorney. In 1999, he became the first African American elected to the Nassau County Court as a Democrat.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Judge Cooper served as the president of the Men's Caucus for Congressman TOWNS, president of the District Court Arbitrators' Association, vice-president of finance and vice chairperson of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Inc. He has received awards from the Amistad Bar Association, and the 2000 Man of the Year Award from the Bedford-Stuyvesant Lions. He has also published a number of decisions in the New York Law Journal exemplifying another aspect of his fine record of service.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Alfred D. Cooper has shown outstanding dedication to the community. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in honoring this remarkable person.

PERMANENT MARRIAGE PENALTY
RELIEF ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4019, the Permanent Marriage Penalty Relief Act.

I wholeheartedly support ending the marriage penalty in the tax code. On March 8, 2001, President Bush signed into law H.R. 3, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001. H.R. 3 reduced income tax rates across the board and made significant progress towards reducing the marriage tax penalty.

Among its main provisions, H.R. 3 increased the standard deduction for married couples to twice that of single earners and increased the 15 percent income tax bracket to twice that of single earners. Furthermore, H.R. 3 doubled

the per-child tax credit to \$1000 from \$500. When fully phased in this new law will give 28 million working American couples relief from the marriage tax penalty. This includes 54,000 couples from the Fourth District who currently pay an average of \$1,400 a year in extra taxes just because they are married.

Unfortunately, because of the other body's arcane rules, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act will sunset in 2011. This is because under the Byrd Rule a point of order may be raised in the Senate against any tax reduction contained in a reconciliation bill that reduces taxes beyond the window of the reconciliation bill, in this case ten years. The point of order can only be waived with the vote of 60 Senators.

Congress should not allow the marriage penalty to rear its ugly head again because of the Senate's bureaucratic rules. The sunset provision of the tax relief package defies the original intent of the legislation and makes it virtually impossible for people and small businesses to plan ahead from a tax standpoint.

At a time when marriages are falling apart at record levels, it makes absolutely no sense to require people to pay more in taxes simply because they are married. This law will relieve families of this extra burden and provide them with more money for their priorities, whether it's college tuition, children's braces, or a family vacation. People should not be taxed differently simply because of their marital status.

Should the sunset of tax relief occur in 2011, countless couples will face higher tax bills simply because they said I do. Now is the time to make tax relief for hard working married couples permanent. I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

HONORING PROFESSOR FRANCISCO
J. AYALA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francisco J. Ayala, Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences and Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Irvine. Today, President Bush will present Professor Ayala the National Medal of Science, the highest honor for scientific achievement in the United States.

Professor Ayala was born in Madrid, Spain in 1934, and moved to the United States in 1961. Three years later, he received a Doctorate of Philosophy from Columbia University. Since this time, he has served on the faculties of several universities across the country, published over 750 articles, and written or edited 15 books. From 1994 to 2001, he served his country on the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. He has been a member of the faculty at the University of California, Irvine since 1987, and it has been my pleasure to represent him in Congress for the last 14 years.

Professor Ayala's discoveries have revolutionized the study of evolution by applying new techniques to the investigation of the evolutionary process. He has also made landmark advances in the treatment and prevention of worldwide diseases that have afflicted millions, including Chagas' disease and malaria. Professor Ayala's advances are helping the medical profession eradicate diseases that have devastated communities in developing countries for centuries.

Professor Ayala will continue to serve mankind by selflessly lending his time and effort as a scientist to the war against disease, and as a teacher at University of California, Irvine. The national recognition of his outstanding work is a special honor for UCI, as well: Professor Ayala is the UCI's second recipient of this award. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, and all of the people of Orange County whom I am privileged to represent, I congratulate Professor Ayala on his lifetime of achievements in the field of evolutionary biology.

IN HONOR OF SUSAN LUSTIG

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susan Lustig for her 15 years of distinguished service as the Executive Director of the Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council.

Susan Lustig embodies the heart and soul of Jewish life in Suffolk County. Under Susan's leadership the Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council has expanded in both stature and influence. She has overseen the publication of many editions of the Suffolk Jewish Directory, the Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council's signature publication. Additionally, new projects have been developed under her tenure to meet the needs of a growing Jewish community. These include the Suffolk Anti-Bias Task Force, the M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands assistance program, the Conversion to Judaism Resource Center and the Suffolk Jewish Community Kallah Education Program.

Susan is an avid supporter of strong U.S.-Israel relations. During the Israeli Teen Delegation's annual visit to our community, Susan escorted the delegation throughout Long Island. She continues to pledge her friendship and support for Israel through her charismatic nature and judicious course of actions.

It is with great pride that I recognize the years of service Susan has given to her community and bring her achievements to the attention of Congress.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.